

HEADQUARTERS
TASK GROUP 7.1

JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
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5709JFE

25 July 1956

H-6-TU-7-38

Dr. Thomas L. Shipman
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 2 PAGE(S)
NO 1 OF 5 COPIES, SERIES A

Dear Dr. Shipman

I guess I'd better give you a brief resume of the fall-out situation here before someone gets at you in the wrong manner. This has already happened, apparently, as a result of a TWX that was sent to NYOO, then passed on to General Starbird.

We got caught by fall-out here at Eniwetok starting approximately 1500 hours on 21 July. The stuff came down from Bikini; the Tewa shot was the culprit. As best as I can determine, the wind structure, good to excellent for firing, collapsed right after the shot was fired and the stuff came rolling in to Eniwetok. The rate of deposition was rather rapid, I would say. I'm enclosing a graph with this letter that gives you a fairly good idea as to the rate of fall-out and the build up of the "mr/hr" background.

Fortunately, no one got "shook up". Primary interest centered in getting off Huron, which we did. Perhaps we should have been jarred a bit, for we did not fully appreciate the impact on the roll-up operations until Monday morning, at which time the H & N people started sweating over the many, many people they would have to evacuate to Bikini (of all places) to get them out of the hot area for a few days. Since CJTF-7 and company had departed to the ZI by then I simply took the matter up with Bill Ogle, who sent a TWX off to CJTF-7 at Honolulu requesting an increase in the MPE to 7 roentgens for the duration of the operational period. That request was granted, so no real slow-down of the roll-up was felt. H & N shipped about 50-60 people to Bikini, but they are rapidly returning them to Eniwetok.

Just my luck, I guess. I patted myself on the back a couple of days too soon. Prior to 1500 hours on the 21st, we had approximately 25 people out of the entire Task Force who had technical over-exposures for the entire operation. 48 hours later we had somewhere around 600 or more with the over-exposure. Such is life.

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Classification changed to
authority of the U.S. FRDA

RE: B. H. D. 1000000
(Person authorizing change in classification and date)

John L. Stephens 6/2/77
(Signature of person making the change and date)

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The situation is well in hand. departs today, so he will probably give you the word on this before this letter gets to you. He should have most of the details. I wanted to get this off to you as I'm quite sure by this time that you have heard about the incident, must be curious as to what happened.

and I will depart PPG approximately 16 August.

GLJ:deb

1 Incl
Conf. Graph, H-6-TU-7-39

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COPIES, SERIES A

Jul 25 1996

Fall-out data, Percy Island
1800 hrs. 21 July to 2400 hrs. 23 July

Date Taken WVA AM/PDR 30
Norway / ECF of 0.2 m/1hr

Data Taken with East Air Pump
at 6 inch level, 12.5 inch minute
30 minute samples covering range
on Nuclear-Chicago Model 1182

5/2/03

Normal BG - attributed at 5 D/m/L

What Operating Period
This Sample

On 12 Nov
curve after
H 4 48 49

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21 July

CL 13

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955: 5 2 78

Fall-out data, Parry Island
1800 hrs, 21 July to 2400 hrs, 23 July

100-100000-335

Duty Together with Capt. Air. Flagg
at 1000 ft. 11.15 hours/minute
35 minute samples. Counting done
on November 24. 1938
Scully -

Normal Biased at 5 D 4/16

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